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IMMEDIATE ACTION

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8599
RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE 0203
INFO RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 0017
RUDKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 1143
BT
UNCLAS ________________ TEL AVIV 11902

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, IS, US, PEPR, AR
SUBJECT: JACOBO TIMERMAN CALLS FOR INQUIRY INTO
- "DAVID GRAIVER AFFAIR"

1. (U) FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN JULY 30, 1981 JERUSALEM POST ENTITLED "TIMERMAN URGES INQUIRY INTO 'DAVID GRAIVER AFFAIR'."

Timerman

2. (U) COMMENCE TEXT. JACOBO TIMERMAN YESTERDAY CALLED FOR "AN INQUIRY BY A WORLD BODY SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE" INTO THE SO-CALLED GRAIVER AFFAIR, WHICH HAS BEEN TERMED "ARGENTINA'S WATERGATE," (THE UN BODY ONLY LOOKS INTO DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS AND MATTERS OF AN ESSENTIALLY DOMESTIC NATURE ARE OUTSIDE THE COURT'S JURISDICTION.)

-- TIMERMAN WAS REACTING TO A REPLY YESTERDAY BY THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO QUERIES BY THE JERUSALEM POST REGARDING THE FOUR-YEAR IMPRISONMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF DAVID GRAIVER, THE CONTROVERSIAL YOUNG FINANCIER WHO DIED IN A PLANE CRASH IN MEXICO IN AUGUST 1976. GRAIVER'S WIDOW, PARENTS, AND BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW WERE JAILED FOR ALLEGED COMPLICITY IN WHAT ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT CALLS "ILLEGAL TRAFFIC OF FOREIGN MONEY." THE SPECIFIC CHARGE IS "ACTING AS FINANCIAL AGENTS FOR THE MONTONEROS TERRORISTS."

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-- TIMERMAN, FORMER PUBLISHER AND EDITOR OF THE PRESTIGIOUS ARGENTINE NEWSPAPER LA OPINION, WAS RELEASED FROM ARGENTINIAN DETENTION TWO YEARS AGO, AFTER A WORLDWIDE OUTCRY AND INTERVENTION BY U.S. PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, THE POPE, AND MANY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND PRESS AND LEGAL ASSOCIATIONS. TIMERMAN'S PROPERTY WAS CONFISCATED AND HE WAS STRIPPED OF HIS ARGENTINE CITIZENSHIP. HE BECAME AN ISRAELI CITIZEN UPON HIS ARRIVAL HERE IN 1979.

-- TIMERMAN WAS NEVER FORMALLY CHARGED WITH ANY WRONGDOING IN ARGENTINA. HE SAYS HE WAS ARRESTED FOR HIS LIBERAL VIEWS AND HUMAN RIGHTS STAND, BUT THAT HE WAS TREATED ESPECIALLY HARSHLY BECAUSE HE WAS A JEW.

-- IN HIS RECENT BOOK ABOUT BEING TORTURED BY A "NAZI FACTION" OF THE ARMY AND POLICE, TIMERMAN NEVER MENTIONS THE NAME OF DAVID GRAIVER, WHO HEADED A LARGE CONGLOMERFO OWNED 45 PERCENT OF TIMERMAN'S NEWSPAPER.

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-- IN THE U.S. TIMERMAN'S BOOK HAS BEEN WIDELY PRAISED BY LIBERALS AND ATTACKED BY CONSERVATIVES. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW THAT WILL APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S POST MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT, TIMERMAN REACTS TO THE CRITICS WHO CITE THE ABSENCE OF GRAIVER'S NAME IN (HIS BOOK) PRISONER WITHOUT A NAME, CELL WITHOUT A NUMBER.

-- THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE GRAIVER FAMILY ARE BEING HELD UNDER SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS ENACTED BY THE MILITARY JUNTA IN 1976 AND 1977 AIMED AT PEOPLE SUSPECTED OF "ACTIONS OR OMISSIONS THAT FACILITATED THE ACTIVITIES OF SUBVERSION." PENALTIES INCLUDE CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY AND LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP FOR NATURALIZED ARGENTINE CITIZENS (LIKE TIMERMAN, WHO WAS BORN IN RUSSIA) AND EITHER EXPULSION OR "CONFINEMENT."

-- ARGENTINA ALSO CHARGED THAT TIMERMAN, FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF DAVID GRAIVER, HAD ATTEMPTED TO ENLARGE HIS HOLDINGS IN LA OPINION AND IN THE GRAIVER PRINTING PLANT, KNOWN AS GUSTOEW
CESENT OF GRAIVER'S
HEIRS.

-- "IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE HEIRS OF DAVID GRAIVER FELT INJURED FOR WHAT THEY ESTIMATE IS AN ILLEGAL MANEUVER TO STRIP THEM OF THEIR PROPERTY OF THE NEWSPAPER AND THE ENTERPRISE THAT PUBLISHES IT," THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID IN ITS TELEXED REPLY TO THE POST.

-- ONE OF THE GRAIVER FAMILY'S U.S. ATTORNEYS, DEYAN BRASHICH OF NEW YORK, SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT THERE WAS A "PROBLEM" BETWEEN THE FAMILY AND TIMERMAN OVER THE SHARES OF LA OPINION.

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-- "AFTER DAVID'S DEATH, THE FAMILY TRIED TO REPAY CERTAIN LOANS AND COMMITMENTS DAVID HAD MADE." HE WAS APPARENTLY REFERRING TO THE FAILURE OF THE AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK, WHICH GRAIVER ALLEGEDLY MILKED FOR ABOUT $50 MILLION. THE ABT COLLAPSE WAS THE FOURTH BIGGEST BANK FAILURE IN U.S. HISTORY.

-- THE FAMILY "WANTED TO SELL THEIR 45 PERCENT OF LA OPINION," BRASHICH SAID. "TIMERMAN TOLD THEM THAT DAVID WAS NOT THE OWNER OF THAT 45 PERCENT BUT THAT TIMERMAN WAS HOLDING THOSE SHARES IN TRUST -- THAT IN FACT HE OWNED 90 PERCENT OF THE PAPER. THE FAMILY WAS PLANNING TO SUE HIM TO RECOVER THE 45 PERCENT, SELL THE SHARES AND PAY OFF DEBTS WHICH HAD BEEN COLLATERALIZED IN ARGENTINA."

-- THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY SOLD LA OPINION FOR ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

-- TIMERMAN SAYS HE "NEVER HEARD" THAT THE FAMILY INTENDED TO SUE HIM. "I WAS NEVER IN TOUCH WITH THE GRAIVER FAMILY BECAUSE THEY WERE NEVER INVOLVED IN THIS BUSINESS WITH DAVID AND HIS LAWYER, JORGE RUBINSTEIN, WHO WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE GRAIVER GROUP (CONGLOMERATE) AND WHO WAS TORTURED TO DEATH IN PRISON -- IN THE SAME JAIL WHERE I WAS LATER TORTURED. HE WAS INTERROGATED AND TORTURED BY GENERAL RAMON CAMPS. IN BUENOS AIRES, WHEN IT HAPPENED, LA OPINION WAS THE ONLY NEWSPAPER THAT PUBLISHED IT."

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-- CAMPS, ONE OF THE MAIN VILLIANS OF TIMERMAN'S BOOK, WAS QUOTED BY THE LOS ANGELES TIMES THIS WEEK AS SAYING THAT ZIONISM IS A BRANCH OF COMMUNISM. LAST WEEK, HE SAID THAT TIMERMAN'S ATTACKS ON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD "ENDANGERED THE ENTIRE JEWISH COMMUNITY" OF ARGENTINA.

-- GRAIVER'S FAMILY WAS "NEVER INVOLVED IN ANYTHING," ACCORDING TO TIMERMAN AND SEVERAL OTHER SOURCES, WHO SAID THAT DAVID RAN A "ONE MAN SHOW."

-- "THE FAMILY WAS NOT ABLE TO RENT A HOUSE WITHOUT HELP," TIMERMAN SAYS. HE DESCRIBED DAVID'S FATHER, JUAN, WHO IMMIGRATED TO ARGENTINA FROM POLAND BEFORE WORLD WAR II AND BUILT A BIG REAL ESTATE BUSINESS FROM NOTHING, AS A "VERY NAIVE MAN" WHO KNEW NOTHING OF HIS WHEELER-DEALER SON'S ACTIVITIES.

-- TIMERMAN SAYS THE JUNTA'S SPECIAL LEGAL MEASURES AGAINST THE TERRORISTS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS ARE ILLEGAL. "THEY ARE MAKING LAWS THAT PROHIBIT THINGS THAT WERE LEGAL FOR 20, 30, 40 YEARS, ACCORDING TO ARGENTINE LAW AND THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION."

-- HE DENIES THE GOVERNMENT'S CHARGES THAT THE GRAIVER'S WERE INVOLVED IN BANKING MONEY FOR MONTONEROS -- TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WERE ACQUIRED BY THE TERRORISTS OVER THE YEARS BY KIDNAPPINGS AND BANK ROBBERIES. IN THE MID-SEVENTIES, TWO BROTHERS WERE RANSOMED FOR 60 MILLION DOLLARS ALONE.

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-- "THEY CANNOT PROVE IT -- THIS IS THE POINT," TIMERMAN SAYS. "SHOW THE PROOFS! THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SHOULD APPOINT THE COURT AT THE HAGUE TO STUDY HE CASE -- THE CASE OF TIMERMAN AND THE CASE OF GRAIVER. IF IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO ARGENTINA, LET THEM APPOINT THE COURT TO UNDERTAKE THIS INQUIRY -- SO THAT WE WILL ALL KNOW."

— THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IN ITS REPLY TO THE POST YESTERDAY SAID THAT THE "BEHAVIOR OF JACOBO TIMERMAN ABROAD" HAS NOT HAD ANY EFFECT ON THE CASE OF THE IMPRISONED GRAIVERS -- DAVID'S WIDOW LIDIA, BROTHER ISADORO AND HIS WIFE (ALSO NAMED LIDIA), AND PARENTS JUAN AND EVA. "IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT THE CAMPAIGN MANAGED BY TIMERMAN RESULTS IN ANY DANGER FOR THEIR SITUATION," THE TELEX FROM ARGENTINA SAID.

-- TIMERMAN HAS CHARGED THAT THE DETENTION OF THE FAMILY IS "THE REAL DREYFUS AFFAIR," BECAUSE THE JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OF ARGENTINA HAS MADE NO EFFORT TO HAVE THEM RELEASED. NOR HAS THE U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO URGE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE THE GRAIVER FAMILY (GRAIVER'S WIDOW IS NOT A JEW).

— ACCORDING TO RICHARD KARP, AN AMERICAN REPORTER WHO IS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT THE TRICONTINENTAL COLLAPSE OF THE GRAIVER EMPIRE, AMERICAN AND MEXICAN JEWISH LEADERS WOULD NOT CARE IF THE FAMILY REMAINED IN JAIL, BECAUSE DAVID GRAIVER "RIPPED THEM OFF FOR 20 MILLION DOLLARS. GRAIVER WAS A SWINDLER, AND THAT'S WHY THEY'RE NOT DEFENDING THE FAMILY." END TEXT. BROWN
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